



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the year. It is so good to be back into some routine again after the festive break and it has been very lovely to welcome our six new Nursery starters over the last few days.

This half term is a short one – but there is lots already in the school calendar, including celebration assemblies, school trips, sporting events, multi-faith week, Young Voices and much, much more!

Congratulations to all our runners who took part in the Casterton x-country event yesterday in the glorious sunshine to power on across a very challenging course with bags of determination and resilience. Yet again, the Levens competitors were equally amazing at supporting one another to do well and congratulating each other at the finish line – something that makes our running club such a positive end to the week for so many! Special congratulations to the year 5 girls whose team came third overall and to Charlotte (pictured here) who came third in her race. Well done too, to Rona who came 4th and Grace who came 2nd in their events.



Ninja Warriors was enjoyed by all pupils yesterday!

Huge thanks to FOLS for organising this week's school disco which was really very well attended and provided a lovely evening for all pupils to spend with their friends dancing and playing games.



Learning to spin plates at the school disco last night!

We are also very grateful to everyone who supported any of our Christmas fundraising events either by volunteering, spending your hard-earned cash or both. The fundraising grand total so far this academic year is just over £2059 which is mainly going towards purchasing a portable cooking station for food technology; our outdoor education days in June; the annual treat for our year six leavers; and includes a small donation to our Blessed Hill Brick Appeal.

Class Updates:

By now, you should have received your child's class newsletter for the spring term. These are also posted on your child's class webpage found in the 'pupils' section of the website. On these pages you will find information about what your child is learning this term, homework arrangements, PE days, expectations around reading at home etc. All the classteachers spend a considerable amount of time updating the information they share with you and would really appreciate you taking a look and digesting these important details about the class connecting you with your child's life at school.

Christian Value:

Our Christian value for the spring term is *Thankfulness*.

'Let your roots grow down to him and your lives be built on him, then you will grow strong in the truth that you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness.'

We have already started to think about what it means to be thankful in our worship time in school when we come together in the hall each day. It is so much more than saying thank you. It's about having gratitude, about noticing the things in life that we can take for granted, it's about pausing to notice the good in each and every day – not just the memorable moments.

Pam Martin:

As many of our Levens community will already know, Pam Martin, who is such a dearly loved and respected friend of our school, is very poorly suffering with an aggressive brain tumour. The contribution Pam has made to our school over many years is immeasurable and the recent news of her ill-health is really very, very sad. Please take a moment to think and pray for Pam and all her family who are living in such challenging and upsetting circumstances.

Staff News:

It was been very lovely to have Miss Butler back in school since the start of term. She has enjoyed the warmest welcome from children, staff and parents alike and she is already having a very positive impact on the provision for our early years.

Governor News:

I can now officially notify you of our two parent governors, Liz Heaton and Jane Newberry, following the completion of a parent ballot. We were very grateful to everyone who came forward to express an interest in becoming a parent governor, particularly because we do not underestimate the enormous commitment being a school governor has become in recent times. I am sure that both Jane and Liz will make a significant contribution to the already strong leadership of our school. The next parent governor vacancy on the Board is in March this year, not far away at all, so please do consider if you have the capacity to offer time to be involved in the leading of the school; full details will follow in due course. If you would like to know more about what the role involves, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Coker, clerk to the governing body, who will be more than happy to advise.

Emergency School Closures:

Just before the Christmas holidays, you will remember that there was a huge amount of snow fall over one weekend, causing several homes to be without power, roads blocked and treacherous driving conditions for days. Please note that if on any occasion we are forced to close, we will inform you as promptly as possible, either the evening before or, more likely, in the morning by 8am.

This would be communicated by text and via email and would only be in extreme circumstances; for example insufficient staff able to get into work, no heating or a power cut, extensive damage to the school building.

Blessed Hill Fundraising:

I am very pleased to inform you that we have managed to raise a substantial amount of funds for our 'Brick Appeal'. Every pound we have raised will buy a brick to build the new shower block for the girls and boys living at Blessed Hill School and Orphanage in Uganda.

A total of £291.27 so far has been achieved through a variety of different events including the collection at our Christmas service at St. John's - £106.27; funds raised at our pre-loved uniform sale in the autumn term - £35; the collection taken at the infant nativity - £70; our Christmas Jumper Day - £80. More news on further donations to this appeal will follow soon.

YoYo:

Please note that there will be no YoYo provision available on Wednesday 28th February due to all staff attending important statutory training after school. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Forthcoming Events:

Dates for the next round of celebration assemblies are all now on the calendar so please make a note of the relevant dates for your child. The first one is for Class 3 which takes place at 9am next Friday 19th January.

Please also ensure you regularly check our school website calendar as this is constantly being updated!

Just follow this link - <https://www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk/calendar/>

On behalf of everyone at Levens, I hope you enjoy a lovely weekend.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday